Progress of tele-density

12. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the target of 250 million telephone subscribers has been achieved well before the target date of December, 2007.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether with this pace the target of 500 million telephone subscribers by 2010 as envisaged in National Telecom Policy is not ambitious and can be achieved well before time;

(d) if so, whether his Ministry would think of revising the 2010 target;

(e) the overall tele-density achieved as of October, 2007; and

(f) the progress of tele-density in rural areas during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The total number of subscribers in the country, as on 31st October, 2007 are 255.01 million provisionally.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The overall tele-density as on 31.10.2007 is 22.38% provisionally.

(f) The progress of tele-density in rural areas during the last five years, year-wise and State/Circle-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The progress of tele-density in rural areas during the last five years; year-wise and State-Circle-wise

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Rural					
		As on 31-03-2003	As on 31-03-2004	As on 31-03-2005	As on 31-03-2006	As on 31-03 2007*	As on 30-09-2007
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman & Nicobar*	7.71	8.40	9.07	8.80	14.17	13.45
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2.03	2.33	2.39	2.34	6.84	8.50
3.	Assam	0.50	0.56	0.63	0.73	2.36	2.61
4.	Bihar	0.48	0.50	0.57	0.66	2.05	2.45
5.	Chhattisgarh*	0.40	0.47	0.54	0.51	0.99	1.08
6.	Gujarat	2.48	2.52	2.63	2.69	10.43	13.17
7.	Haryana	2.32	2.42	2.80	3.10	10.74	13.64
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5.43	5.51	6.79	7.25	22.30	26.90
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.52	0.61	0.76	0.85	5.08	6.29

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Jharkhand*	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.58	1.08	1.07
11.	Karnataka	2.37	2.41	2.49	2.63	7.46	9.30
12.	Kerala	7.85	8.60	9.74	10.65	21.11	22.71
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0.56	0.68	0.66	0.79	3.28	3.69
14.	Maharashtra(-)Mumbai	2.19	2.31	2.56	2.80	7.16	9.58
15.	North East-I	0.95	1.08	1.22	1.29	4.63	5.38
16.	North East-II	0.79	1.01	1.20	1.26	2.89	2.80
17.	Orissa	0.87	0.95	1.04	1.16	4.20	5.48
18.	Punjab	4.60	4.81	5.33	5.29	16.16	17.98
19.	Rajasthan	1.25	1.32	1.44	1.67	6.75	9.37
20.	Tamil Nadu (-) Chennai	2.12	2.35	2.79	2.99	9.65	12.82
21.	Uttarakhand*	1.30	1.48	1.63	1.84	4.36	4.58
22.	Uttar Pradesh	0.56	0.47	0.52	0.55	3.10	4.29
23.	West Bengal(-) Kolkata	0.89	0.95	1.04	1.13	4.69	5.63
24.	Kolkata	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Chennai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Mumbai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	ALL INDIA TOTAL:	1.49	1.57	1.73	1.86	5.88	7.30

*NOTE: Private operators started providing segregated data for rural and urban subscribers in respect of mobile telephones only since March, 2007, therefore rural tele-density shows sudden increase as on 31st March, 2007 and onwards.

Package for North Eastern Region

13. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister recently declared a special package of assistance for the development of North-Eastern Region of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the funds to be utilized for the purpose during 2007-08 and the following three financial years; and

(c) specific areas of activity for which the funds are to be utilized and the scope of employment to be generated for the locals during 2007-08 and following three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The details of announcements made by successive Prime Ministers during their visits to the North-East Region may be seen on the website of this Ministry *www.mdoner.in*. A summary of announcements made during the last three years may be seen in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) Specific elements of the packages are funded from the Plan allocations and budgets of the